



Ministry of parliamentary affairs plays central role in parliamentary business: Dr Tariq Fazal



Punjab govt bringing rights to citizens' doorsteps: Azma Bokhari



Imran's release in his own hands, dependent on PTI's attitude: Sharjeel Memon

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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Over 80 terrorists killed as armed forces strike 7 camps along Pakistan-Afghanistan border



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani airstrikes on Afghanistan killed "more than 80 terrorists," security sources said on Sunday, in a retaliatory operation against groups responsible for recent suicide bombings in Pakistan.

Pakistan struck seven "terrorist camps and hideouts belonging to Pakistani Taliban of [Fitna al Khawarij] and its affiliates and [the Islamic State-Khorasan Province] at the border region of Pakistan-Afghanistan border," the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced in a post early Sunday on the social media platform X. Fitna al Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Security sources said late Sunday evening that, "Last night, Pakistan's intelligence-based airstrikes destroyed seven centres of Fitna al-Khawarij TTP in three provinces of Nangarhar, Paktika and Khost, in which more than eighty Khawarij have been confirmed killed, while more are expected."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik as Chief guest at special celebration of Chinese New Year at Chinese Embassy.

Somalia in talks to purchase 24 JF-17 Thunder jets from Pakistan



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Somalia is negotiating with Pakistan to purchase up to 24 JF-17 Thunder Block III fighter jets, with a defence deal worth approximately Rs2.51 trillion (around \$900 million) currently under consideration.

According to media reports, high-level talks have accelerated as Mogadishu seeks to acquire modern combat aircraft to rebuild its air combat capabilities for the first time since the collapse of the state in 1991. The proposed agreement reportedly focuses on the advanced Block III variant of the JF-17 Thunder.

The multi-phase defence package is said to include not only the aircraft but also pilot training, weapons integration, and a comprehensive logistics support arrangement.

If finalised, the agreement would mark Somalia's largest and most significant defence procurement since the end of the Cold War, potentially signaling a notable shift in the security landscape of the Horn of Africa region.

Chinese Embassy hosts spring festival event celebrating China-Pakistan friendship

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan hosted a special event themed "Chinese New Year, China-Pakistan Go Together" on the occasion of the Chinese Spring Festival (Year of the Horse).

Celebrating the new year with Pakistani brothers and sisters and reaffirming the enduring friendship between the two nations.

Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik attended the event as the chief guest, sharing in the festivities and highlighting the deep-rooted bond between Pakistan and China, said a news release issued by the

Ministry of Petroleum.

Extending heartfelt congratulations to the Chinese leadership, government, and people, the minister said that the Year of the Horse reflects the resilience and strength of the Pakistan-China friendship. He noted that China has consistently extended unwavering support to Pakistan, particularly during challenging economic times.

He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan has successfully overcome economic hardships and steered the country toward stabilisation, adding that China provided substantial support during this jour-

ney.

He termed economic growth as the next target and expressed confidence that continued Chinese support would help accelerate this progress.

Referring to cooperation in the mining sector, the minister stated that China and Pakistan have several joint projects and significant potential to expand collaboration in this area.

He said that following the success of the Saindak Project, the next major milestone in bilateral mining cooperation would be the Reko Diq project, expressing hope that it would be operationalized in the near future.

Reaffirming that Pakistan and China

share an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, the minister expressed confidence that the coming year would further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

He emphasized that economic ties between the two countries are expanding into new domains, particularly petroleum and minerals, and reiterated that Pakistan-China relations have consistently progressed in the right direction.

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong underscored that China's confidence in Pakistan remains unshakable. He reiterated China's commitment to working closely with Pakistan across multiple sectors.

CTD team comes under attack in Bannu, militant commander killed

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: A Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) team was ambushed by militants in Bannu on Sunday, leading to a gun battle in which a key militant commander was killed.

According to CTD officials, the investigative team was on its way to identify the crime scene related to an attack on the Assistant Commissioner of North Waziristan, Shah Wali Khan, when armed militants launched an assault to free a detained commander. During the exchange of fire, the detained militant commander was killed.

Gohar rejects Sher Afzal's claims about Aleema Khan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has rejected claims made by former PTI leader Sher Afzal Marwat regarding Aleema Khan allegedly seeking the party chairmanship or asking him to step down.

Speaking to the media, Barrister Gohar termed Sher Afzal Marwat's recent television remarks as "disappointing." He said he had previously taken a commitment from Marwat to avoid making shenanigan statements, adding that it was inappropriate to appear on multiple TV channels.

Pakistan, 13 other nations condemn US envoy's remarks supporting Israeli expansion in Middle East

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan, along with 13 other nations, has condemned the remarks made by US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, where he suggested that he would not be opposed to Tel Aviv taking over large swathes of the Middle East, the Foreign Office said on Sunday.

Huckabee made the remarks in an interview with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson on Friday, where the envoy asserted that Israel's borders are based on the Bible when questioned about the country's current boundaries. In response, Carlson noted that the biblical verse included the region between the Euphrates River in Iraq and the Nile in Egypt. To this, Huckabee, who is a staunch pro-Israel conser-

vative, said, "It would be found concern" regarding fine if they (Israel) took it Huckabee's statement.



"They affirm their countries' categorical rejection of such dangerous and inflammatory remarks, which constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and pose a grave threat to the security and stability of the region," the statement said.

The joint statement stressed that Huckabee's remarks were in contra-

dition of "the vision put forward by US President Donald Trump, as well as the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, which are based on containing escalation and creating a political horizon for a comprehensive settlement that ensures the Palestinian people have their own independent state".

It stressed that Trump's plan was "grounded in promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence, and that remarks seeking to legitimise control over the lands of others undermine these objectives, fuel tensions, and constitute incitement rather than advancing peace". The countries maintained that Israel held "no sovereignty whatsoever over the Occupied Palestinian Territory or any other occupied Arab lands".

Pakistan, UK agree to further strengthen bilateral cooperation



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar met with UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper on the sidelines of a United Nations Security Council meeting.

During the meeting, Dar thanked the British foreign secretary for convening an important session on Palestine. According to the Foreign Office spokesperson, the two leaders conducted a detailed review of Pakistan-UK bilateral relations and agreed to further enhance cooperation across various sectors.

Both sides emphasised the importance of promoting people-to-people contacts and maintaining high-level engagements.



SPORTS



T20 World Cup: South Africa crush India by 76 runs in Super Eight Clash



PEAK POINT

AHMEDABAD: South Africa delivered a commanding performance to defeat India by 76 runs in the Super Eight match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, bringing an end to India's remarkable winning streak in the tournament. Chasing a challenging target of 188, India's batting lineup faltered under pressure and collapsed dramatically. Wickets fell in quick succession as the Proteas bowlers dominated proceedings.

Shivam Dube was the top scorer for India with 42 runs, while Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav contributed 18 runs each. Apart from these contributions, none of the Indian batters managed to make a significant impact, and the entire side was bowled out for 111 in the 19th over. South Africa's bowling attack was spearheaded by Marco Jansen, who claimed four wickets in a decisive spell. Keshav Maharaj picked up

three wickets, while Corbin Bosch chipped in with two, dismantling India's strong batting order with disciplined and aggressive bowling. Earlier in the match played in Ahmedabad, South Africa won the toss and elected to bat first. The decision proved fruitful as they posted an imposing total of 187 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs. David Miller led the charge with a well-compiled 63, anchoring the innings with authority. Dewald Brevis provided solid

support with 45 runs, while Tristan Stubbs added 44 to bolster the Proteas total. For India, Jasprit Bumrah was the standout bowler with three wickets, while Arshdeep Singh claimed two scalps. The defeat marked India's first loss in the T20 World Cup after a run of 12 consecutive victories. The defending champions had remained unbeaten since the 2024 edition of the tournament, making this loss a significant setback in their campaign.

Unseeded Salamat-Delpa duo clinch Dubai MT400 Masters 40+ doubles title



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The unseeded pairing of Shehryar Salamat (Pakistan) and Dries Delpa (Belgium) showed resilience and composure under pressure to clinch the 40+ doubles title at the Dubai MT400 Masters. In the final, Salamat and Delpa upset the tournament's second seeds, Daniel Humeres (Chile) and Enrique Gonzalez (Venezuela), with a commanding 6-4, 7-6(2) victory. The match featured high-quality exchanges throughout, with the unseeded duo elevating their level in the decisive moments of the second-set tiebreak. The match began with strong service games from both sides, but Salamat and Delpa struck first by breaking serve at a crucial moment in the opening set, allowing them to take it 6-4. The second set proved to be a tighter affair, with both teams holding serve throughout, forcing a deciding tiebreak. Salamat and Delpa carried their momentum into the breaker, dominating from the outset and sealing the set 7-6(2) to secure the title without dropping a set in the final. Earlier in the tournament, Salamat and Delpa advanced with an impressive semifinal win over Krishna Kumar (India) and Mhd Anas Daboul (Syria), prevailing 7-6(6), 6-1 after a tightly contested opening set followed by a dominant second.

England beat Sri Lanka by 51 runs in T20 World Cup



PEAK POINT

DUBAI: England defeated Sri Lanka by 51 runs in the ICC T20 World Cup Super Eight stage match on Sunday. Batting first against Sri Lanka, England managed to score 146 runs in their allotted 20 overs. Phil Salt played an impressive knock, scoring a half-century. In the match being

played in Pallekele, Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to bat first. Phil Salt and Jos Buttler opened the innings for England. At a total of 16 runs, Jos Buttler was dismissed for 7. Jacob Bethell scored 3, Tom Banton 6, captain Harry Brook 14, and Sam Curran 11 before returning to the pavilion. Phil Salt topped the scoring with a brilliant

Shanaka (c), Dunith Wellalage, Dushan Hemantha, Dushantha Chameera, Maheesh Theekshana, Dilshan Madushanka. England: Philip Salt, Jos Buttler (wk), Jacob Bethell, Tom Banton, Harry Brook (c), Sam Curran, Will Jacks, Jamie Overton, Liam Dawson, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid. **INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA** Defending champions India and South Africa will be meeting in the other match of the day at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad at 6:30 pm PST. India and South Africa remained unbeaten in their groups. India defeated the USA, Namibia, Pakistan and the Netherlands without any resistance.



KARACHI: A cake cutting ceremony is being held in Sri Lankan Consulate to celebrate hosting of T-20 World Cup here on Sunday.

Pakistan-Kiwis T20 World Cup Super Eights opener washed out

PEAK POINT

COLOMBO: The high-stakes Super Eights encounter between Pakistan and New Zealand in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 was abandoned without a single delivery bowled after persistent rain lashed the R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium on Saturday. Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha had earlier won the toss and elected to bat first. However, moments after the toss proceedings concluded, heavy showers swept across the venue, forcing players off the field. Despite a prolonged wait of over two-and-a-half hours, the rain showed little sign of relenting, and umpires ultimately called off the match well before the cut-off time for a minimum five-over contest, citing unplayable outfield conditions and puddles on the square. As per tournament regulations, both teams were awarded one point each. The washout has added an extra

layer of intrigue to Super Eights Group 2, which also features England and co-host Sri Lanka. The two sides are scheduled to meet on Sunday in what now becomes an even more pivotal fixture in the race for semi-final qualification. Pakistan, the 2009 champions, will next face England at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. New Zealand, meanwhile, remain in Sri Lanka. Should they qualify, the first semi-final will be staged in Colombo; otherwise, it will be shifted to Eden Gardens. Ferguson, and Mitchell Santner. Only the top two teams from each Super Eights group will progress to the semi-finals, scheduled for March 4 and 5. Under the tournament's 'Fusion Formula', Pakistan are set to play all their matches in Sri Lanka. Should they qualify, the first semi-final will be staged in Colombo; otherwise, it will be shifted to Eden Gardens.

Pakistan to tour Bangladesh in March

PAKISTAN TOUR OF BANGLADESH

FIRST ODI
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

SECOND ODI
FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026

THIRD ODI
SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026

APP's Rs 400m proposal questioned over basic infrastructure failures

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: A heated session of the Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting turned explosive when a Balochistan lawmaker exposed the dilapidated condition of the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) office in Quetta moments after officials sought Rs 400 million for a nationwide digital transformation project. During the review of the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for 2026-27, APP presented a one year scheme titled "Digital Infrastructure Transformation of APP,"

seeking Rs 400 million to modernize its core operations. The project aims to upgrade the news gathering system, replace outdated computers, and connect APP stations across Pakistan. Officials admitted that current hardware is so obsolete that "latest smart news and software cannot run on them," highlighting the need for urgent technological overhaul. However, the digital pitch was immediately overshadowed by a blunt intervention from a Committee member representing Balochistan, who described the physical state of APP's Quetta office as

humiliating. Speaking emotionally, he said that if the Minister, Secretary, or Managing Director visited the office, they would find that "even a police station would be better." He went further, stating that "even the horse stables of the colonial era are in better condition." The member revealed that during his visit, staff had to borrow chairs from other offices and in some cases bring seating from their homes just to conduct basic operations. "The situation is extremely bad," he said, stressing that he was raising the issue publicly so that responsible authorities would

take notice. The shocking comparison drew immediate reaction in the committee room, with members seeking clarification that the remarks referred specifically to the Quetta office. The Balochistan representative reaffirmed that the conditions were unacceptable and that remote regional offices had long been ignored. Responding to the outcry, Committee Chairman Mr. Pullain Baloch directed officials to submit a detailed report within one week on the condition of the APP Quetta office. He stated that if the issue is as basic as the absence of furniture and seat-

ing, corrective measures should not require excessive expenditure. He instructed the relevant department to formally compile and forward a report for immediate review. Another committee member expressed appreciation that the issue had finally been raised at a parliamentary forum. She noted that smaller and remote offices, especially in Balochistan, had historically been neglected and said it was encouraging that the committee was now taking their concerns seriously. The session exposed a striking contrast: while APP is pushing for a Rs 400 million digital transfor-

mation to modernize systems and connectivity nationwide, at least one provincial office is reportedly struggling with basic infrastructure and furniture. Lawmakers signaled that modernization cannot succeed if foundational facilities remain in disrepair. The committee will now evaluate both the digital funding proposal and the Quetta office report before making budgetary recommendations for 2026-27. Members made it clear that technological upgrades must be matched by accountability and equitable development across all provinces.

IWT historic model of water equity, peaceful dispute resolution in SA: Director Climate Ministry

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Indus Waters Treaty is a historic example of equitable water distribution and peaceful dispute resolution in South Asia. Director (Urban Affairs) in the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Muhammad Azeem Khoso, said.

He stated that the agreement was signed in 1960 between Pakistan and India with the mediation of the World Bank. Its primary

objective was to permanently resolve water disputes that arose after the partition of the subcontinent and to ensure stability in the region. Under the treaty, rights over the three eastern rivers were allocated to India, while Pakistan was granted rights over the waters of the three western rivers, enabling both countries to fulfill their agricultural and economic needs in an organized manner.

In an exclusive interview with APP, he clarified that the treaty cannot be sus-



ended unilaterally by either party. Under international treaty law, it was a duly signed and enforced agreement that could only be amended or terminated through the mutual consent

of both parties. The treaty also provides a gradual dispute resolution mechanism, under which matters can be referred to the Commission, a neutral expert, or an international arbitration forum.

Muhammad Azeem said that the legal status of the treaty is strong and is protected under international law and states' responsibility principles. The World Bank, as a guarantor institution, is supposed to play the role of facilitator in the dispute resolution process. He emphasized that the international community bears the responsibility to ensure respect for the treaty and to discourage any unilateral action, as water is not merely a bilateral issue, but rather it is a matter linked closely to

regional peace and human stability. He warned that any attempt to unilaterally suspend the treaty could have serious consequences. It could adversely affect agricultural production, food security, energy projects, and environmental balance, in addition to causing public unrest and political tensions. Replying to a question, he pointed out that since both Pakistan and India have nuclear capabilities, any unlawful or provocative action could heighten tensions in the region.

Opinion & Editorial


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Paper proscriptions

THE Punjab government's decision to publicly list 89 banned and unregistered groups, and to warn citizens against donating to them, is a welcome move. During Ramadan, when charity peaks, reminding the public that funding banned outfits is a crime under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, is both timely and necessary. Making the list accessible and providing helplines to report suspicious fundraising shows administrative seriousness. But let us not mistake paperwork for progress. Pakistan has, over the years, produced several inventories of proscribed groups. Many of the names in the latest notification have featured on such lists for decades. Yet several of these outfits have repeatedly proved they can survive. They rebrand, splinter, form welfare fronts, or operate through ostensibly charitable trusts. The names change but the leadership, infrastructure and ideology often remain intact. If the state has formally banned these entities, it implies there is sufficient evidence of involvement in terrorism or anti-state activity. The logical next step should be aggressive, visible enforcement. That means prosecuting leaders and financiers, not merely notifying the public. It means freezing bank accounts and scrutinising suspicious transactions with financial tools.

Strategic confusion

Muhammad Amir Rana
IT was late spring, yet Islamabad was gripped by a heated debate over whether Pakistan should send its troops to Saudi Arabia to participate in the Saudi-Yemen war. The joint session of parliament deliberated for five days, reflecting an unusual level of engagement, as it is rare in Pakistan's history for parliament to decide matters concerning security and foreign policy.

A similar moment had emerged in May 2009, when the military leadership sought parliamentary support to launch Operation Rah-i-Raast in Swat against what was at that time described and debated as action against its 'own people'.

After a few days, parliament concluded on April 10, 2015, that Pakistan should remain neutral in the Yemen conflict to play a proactive diplomatic role in ending the crisis. Indeed, it was a crucial decision that parliament made, one which the establishment could not have afforded to take unilaterally; parliament had provided it full support.

Has such a moment arisen again? Pakistan's leadership is once again hesitant to play a role in the Middle East, ie, to announce its participation in the International Stabilisation Force (ISF), which will be tasked with securing reconstruction zones and supporting a post-conflict governance arrangement in Gaza.

Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy

Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, along with a delegation, went to Washington where they attended a Donald Trump-led Board of Peace meeting, during which the American president and Mr Sharif exchanged "traditional greetings", with a reminder that Trump had prevented a nuclear war between India and Pakistan. However, Pakistan was not among the five nations that announced their formal participation in the ISF.

Pakistan's leadership is once again hesitant to play a role in the Middle East.

With Mr Sharif and Mr Dar continuing their meetings in Washington, including with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the leadership may reach a decision in the next few days about Pakistan's contribution to the ISF, as hinted by the Foreign Office spokesperson during a media briefing.

It is spring again, and the establishment has quickened its pace towards becoming a hard state. And yet, this is a peculiar move for it and it might be considering taking parliament into confidence to seek its endorsement and present it as a consensus decision. Such doubts arise because Pakistan is maintaining a similar position on the ISF, ie, that it would be part of a peacekeeping mandate but would not participate in any disarmament of Hamas or demilitarisation mandates.

Let us recall the April 2015 session, when parliament went a step further: while endorsing the establish-

ment's plan, it also advised that Pakistan should not send its troops to Saudi Arabia even for training and advisory purposes. In its resolution, it stressed that the leadership should play a proactive diplomatic role rather than deploy troops. Will Pakistan repeat this stance?

The situation is altogether different now. Pakistan has renewed its defence pact with Saudi Arabia, there are new geostrategic alignments in West and Central Asia as well as in Africa, and Pakistan is enjoying the support and favour of President Trump. This time, multiple Muslim nations are participating in the ISF, and it would be difficult for the leadership to make a decision. However, there is a perception that, more than a backlash from the masses over unpopular decisions, the establishment is apprehensive of the historical factor — history can make us either heroes or villains. Such an impression has a cost not only for individuals but also for institutions. Such assumptions may haunt the decision-makers, but perhaps the strategic advantages they see in any geostrategic adventure they contemplate is not viewed from a longer-term perspective. Seemingly, Pakistan faces a dilemma: an India-centric security doctrine, seeking help from the West and Gulf countries, while providing a strategic backdoor to the US and offering specialised security services to Gulf countries.

Courtesy Dawn

Iran—means and end debate

Dr Muhammad Ali Ehsan

THE US-Iran talks in Geneva culminated with no specific agreement reached between the two countries. Had it been just about the US and Iran, we might have witnessed an agreement of some sort between the two countries, but the real issue here is Israel and its uncompromising, aggressive posture against Iran. No American president can afford to ignore demands that come from Israel.

For now, Iranians have agreed to draw a written proposal to address the US concerns, and the US Secretary of State has also announced that he will be visiting Israel on 28 Feb 2026 to brief Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the US-Iran talks held in Geneva.

Apparently, the US is taking time to exhaust the diplomatic path before it resorts to any military action, but going by the recent US history with Iran, anything can happen. In June 2025, following five earlier rounds of indirect talks, a sixth round of the US-Iran nuclear negotiations was scheduled in Muscat, Oman, but the US sidestepped diplomacy and executed a surprise attack on the Iranian nuclear sites.

As of now the US president has spoken about a timeline of 10 to 15 days for the Iranians to reach a deal with the US, but given the recent history of Americans pulling up surprises one can assume that diplomatic activity aside, the American hubris — over-confidence in its power and vanity — and its prestige driven politics' may once again push the US to undertake a military action against Iran.

What, however, remains an unanswered question is why the US is in such a great hurry to resolve an issue that has been lingering on for decades? One should not forget that Prime Minister Netanyahu has been claiming since the early 90s that Iran is days away from achieving a nuclear capability.

Courtesy Tribune

Pakistan stands firm against permanent UNSC seats expansion, pushes for elected representation



PEAK POINT

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan Friday reaffirmed its opposition to adding new permanent members to the UN Security Council, arguing it would increase the 15-member body's dysfunction and violate the principle of sovereign equality.

Speaking in a resumed session of the long-running Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) aimed at reforming the Security Council, Ambassador Asim Itikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said that the demand for individual permanent membership is

clearly something that runs counter to the principles of reform.

As part of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group, Ambassador Asim Ahmad said Pakistan advocates for expanding only non-permanent, elected seats to enhance democratic representation in order to ensure "REFORM FOR ALL - PRIVILEGE FOR NONE".

Full-scale negotiations to reform the Security Council began in the General Assembly in February 2009 on five key areas — the categories of membership, the question of veto, regional representation, the size of an enlarged Security Council, and working methods of the council and its relationship with the General Assembly.

Progress towards restructuring the Security Council remains blocked as G-4 countries — India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan — continue to push for permanent seats in the Council, while the Italy/Pakistan-

led UfC group opposes any additional permanent members, arguing it would create "new centers of privilege".

As a compromise, UfC has proposed a new category of members — not permanent members — with a longer duration in terms and a possibility to get re-elected.

The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States — and 10 non-permanent members elected to two-year terms.

The IGN framework is geared towards restructuring the Council to make it more representative, effective, and accountable.

In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy emphasized that the campaign for individual permanent membership cannot be a basis for reform governed by those agreed principles.

The overwhelming majority of the United Nations' membership,

Rubina Khalid stresses protection of mother languages for social inclusion & national unity

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, Saturday emphasized that mother languages form the foundation of identity, culture, and heritage, and play a vital role in promoting social justice and national cohesion.

In her message on the occasion of International Mother Language Day, she said linguistic diversity reflects Pakistan's beauty and strength, adding that the protection and promotion of mother languages are essential for building an inclusive and equitable society.

She highlighted that education in one's mother language guarantees a brighter future for children by improving learning outcomes and strengthening cultural confidence. Senator Rubina Khalid



noted that respect for all languages promotes cultural harmony and reinforces unity among diverse communities.

The BISP Chairperson said the Benazir Income Support Programme believes in reaching every segment of society in its own language to ensure effective communication and broader social inclusion. She added that recognizing linguistic diversity helps strengthen connections between generations and preserves cultural heritage. She stated that national development cannot be achieved.

MQM-P terms resolution passed by Sindh Assembly against any new province 'unconstitutional'

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Sunday assailed the PPP-led Sindh government for moving a resolution in the provincial assembly against the creation of any new province, terming it "unconstitutional".

On Saturday, the Sindh Assembly on Saturday passed a resolution declaring Karachi an "inseparable part" of the province and opposing any move that suggested otherwise. Subsequently, on Sunday, MQM-P Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui — flanked by Farooq Sattar, Mustafa Kamal and Senator Faisal Subzwari — addressed a press conference in Karachi on the development.

"Yesterday, a resolution against the Constitution of Pakistan was passed by one assembly of Pakistan," Siddiqui said at the outset of his speech.

"A province had carried itself as if it were a separate country," Siddiqui, also the federal education minister, said while referring to Sindh. The MQM-P leader asked the public and the "intellectuals" of Sindh whether any

province could pass a resolution that "went against the Constitution".

"This [resolution] challenged Pakistan, its Constitution, its law and its state," he remarked, noting that it was being done by the party that had been in power in the province for the past 17 years.

Siddiqui contended that Article 239 of the 1973 Constitution provided the procedure for establishing new provinces.

"This resolution is not against any demand of ours but against Pakistan's Constitution, its state, presence and the PPP leader (Bhutto)," he said.

The MQM-P leader also referred to Articles 246 and 248 of the Constitution, which he said gave presidential powers for "extraordinary circumstances".

He recalled that the MQM-P had demanded the empowerment of local governments even at the time of the 26th Amendment, when "the Pakistani state, government and democracy were in dire need of us".

Siddiqui emphasised that the solution to the issue was "dialogue, not threats".

Punjab govt bringing rights to citizens' doorsteps: Azma Bokhari

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari stated that the Punjab government is ensuring that every citizen receives their entitlements at their doorstep.

Azma highlighted that Maryam Nawaz has introduced a new trend this Ramadan called "Maryam ke Dastarkhwan", providing meals to fasting individuals across Punjab. People in every tehsil are benefiting from this initiative, with both men and women attending the iftar arrangements.

She further mentioned that 74 Sahulat Bazaars across the province are offering affordable and high-quality food items, with the Food Authority monitoring standards. Women are also able to order essential items from these bazaars from home.

Azma Bokhari emphasised that the government, under Maryam Nawaz's leadership, is delivering citizens' rights directly to their doorsteps. The Ramadan Nighban Package ensures aid cards reach all eligible recipients.

Imran's release in his own hands, dependent on PTI's attitude: Sharjeel Memon

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: PPP leader Sharjeel Inam Memon on Sunday said that PTI founder Imran Khan's release was "in his own hands" as it depended on his party's "attitude". The Sindh senior minister made the remarks while speaking to reporters during a visit to a site of ongoing development work in Karachi.

In response to a question regarding Imran's release, the minister maintained that the incarcerated former premier's release "was in his own hands and the attitude" of PTI.

"I do not have any knowledge of his release; however, it is the blessed month of Ramadan, and I pray for his health, particularly his eye issue", Memon said.

Imran's health has been garnering attention in recent days, with his family and party raising concerns since his eye ailment — right central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO) — came to light in



late January.

Memon assailed the party for "not focusing on the release of their leadership" and instead "creating fuss and staging protests outside of Adiala".

"It is better if they focus on seeking Imran's release," he added.

Imran, imprisoned since August 2023, is serving a 14-year sentence at Rawalpindi's Adiala jail in a £190 million corruption case and was convicted months ago in another case regarding state gifts. He also faces pending trials under the Anti-Terrorism Act related to the protests of May 9, 2023.

IOC elects new members at Milan Session

MUHAMMAD HARIS

ISLAMABAD: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) concluded its 145th Session in Milan with important leadership elections ahead of the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games. South Korea's Yunjong Won and Estonia's Johanna Talihaem were elected as new IOC Members after being chosen by fellow athletes. Spanish basketball star Pau Gasol also joined the IOC Executive Board after becoming Chair of the Athletes' Commission. The IOC confirmed that its membership will stand at 106 members, with women mak-



ing up 43.4 percent of the organization. Long-serving members Syed Shahid Ali (Pakistan) and Dr Robin E. Mitchell (Fiji) will become Honorary Members from 1 January 2027. An extraordinary IOC Session is scheduled for Lausanne, Switzerland, on 24-25 June 2026.



MQM-P leaders addressing a press conference in Karachi here on Sunday.

Ministry of parliamentary affairs plays central role in parliamentary business: Dr Tariq Fazal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhary, on Sunday, said that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, despite being the smallest in terms of manpower and attached departments, plays the most pivotal role in parliamentary business. Talking in an exclusive interview with APP, he said, "The ministry has the lowest number of officers and associated departments compared to other federal ministries. However, its institutional

importance surpasses others because all parliamentary business—whether of the National Assembly or the Senate—passes through the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs." He said the ministry serves as the central coordinating body for legislative and parliamentary proceedings. Whenever a ministry's business is scheduled in Parliament, it is processed and routed through the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The ministry also works closely with the Ministry of Law and Justice in steering legislation.

All government bills, he said, are introduced through the ministry, and the Order of the Day for both Houses is routed through the same channel. The ministry also facilitates responses to parliamentary questions, calling attention notices, and other oversight tools exercised by lawmakers. He said that the ministry facilitated 49 meetings of six standing committees and monitored the implementation of 37 official assurances given on the floor of Parliament. A ministerial committee headed by the Defence Minister helped

advance government legislation and supported the passage of 39 government bills in both Houses. The minister said he played an active role in parliamentary proceedings, responding to 207 questions raised by members. The ministry also presented 20 calling attention notices and six constitutional and legal reports in the Houses.

In addition, responses were provided on five resolutions, debates were concluded on nine motions, and proceedings related to 26 legislative bills were handled during the year.

He said, the Grievance Wing of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is functioning efficiently to address public complaints. The wing received between 20,000 and 30,000 written complaints during 2025, in addition to thousands of complaints through telephone calls, and maintained a disposal rate of 93 per cent.

He said the Prime Minister's Public Affairs and Grievances Wing, operating under the ministry, receives complaints from across the country and regularly follows up on them. Citizens can

lodge complaints on the universal helpline number 111-555-554 for redressal. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs reported that 93 per cent of public complaints received across Pakistan in 2025 were resolved, with action taken on 21,281 applications during the year.

According to the minister, most complaints received by the Prime Minister's Public Affairs and Grievances Wing related to land occupation, delays in the registration of FIRs, police conduct, irregularities in utility bills.